



Center for Studies of Host Response to Cancer Therapy

Request for Applications: Pilot Projects

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2015

Background

The objective of the COBRE (Center of Biomedical Research Excellence) for Studies of Host Response to Cancer Therapy is to conduct basic and translational research aimed at developing strategies to minimize early and delayed cancer treatment-related toxicities. An important part of the COBRE is to provide assistance to junior scientists so that they become successful independent investigators. This Pilot Project Research Program is an important tool toward that goal. We anticipate being able to fund two pilot study awards this fiscal year.

More information on how the COBRE is structured, currently funded research projects in the COBRE, and our core facilities and services can be obtained from the COBRE Principal Investigator, Dr. Martin Hauer-Jensen, MD, PhD, FACS (mhjensen@uams.edu).

Description of the Pilot Project Program

The COBRE Pilot Project Research Program provides up to \$75,000 direct costs for one year's support of basic or translational research projects that align with the COBRE focus. In addition, funded pilot investigators will have access to all of the COBRE's core laboratories and facilities free of charge. Applicants are also advised to take advantage of the expertise available within other COBRE project teams and interact/collaborate with them. Funded COBRE pilot investigators will be required to participate in local, regional, and national COBRE and IDeA (Institutional Development Award) meetings, to give periodic progress reports when requested, and to submit a comprehensive final written report detailing the studies performed and the findings.

Eligibility

1. The application should be strongly focused on acute or chronic side effects to cancer therapy. Although both basic science and translational are allowed, translational applications will be given priority.
2. The applicant must have a PhD, MD, or equivalent degree.
3. The ideal applicant is a new, early stage investigator, in the tenure track, with strong evidence of institutional support (designation of lab space, start-up funds, etc.).
4. The applicant should meet standard NIH requirements for submission of an R01 application and successful pilot projects should facilitate subsequent application for independent follow-on funding.

Projects that require performance of work at more than one institution will not be accepted. Third party subcontracts are unallowable.

Areas of Research Focus

If you have any questions on the nature or scope of the proposed project, please contact Dr. Martin Hauer-Jensen, COBRE Principal Investigator (mhjensen@uams.edu).

Application Format

Please use form PHS 398 while observing the following page limits:

Introduction	1 page
Biosketch (per person)	5 pages
Specific Aims	1 page
Research Strategy	6 pages
Vertebrate Animals (if applicable)	No limit
Human Subjects Research (if applicable)	No limit

The **Introduction** should include a statement of the relevance of the application to the focus of the COBRE, i.e., to mechanisms of or strategies to minimize early or long term side effects of cancer therapy. Also in the Introduction, a statement to whether the application should be considered basic or translational research should be included.

The **Research Strategy** should include a clear description of the methods used in the project, the expected results, and how the milestones and deliverables will help the COBRE overall. A statistical section is required. A brief description of how the proposed pilot project will facilitate obtaining further funding should also be included.

Animal Studies: Institutional assurances (including review and approval by the UAMS IACUC) must be in place prior to final funding if your project is selected. If animal studies are proposed, please be sure to include a completed NIH section “Vertebrate Animals” with your application (not subject to page limits).

Clinical Studies: Institutional assurances (including review and approval by the UAMS IRB) must be in place prior to final funding if your project is selected. If the use of human samples is proposed, please be sure to include a completed NIH section “Human Subjects Research” in your application (not subject to page limits).

Statistical Considerations: Awardees will be expected to review their experimental plan with the COBRE Statistician prior to beginning their studies.

Budget limits

There is a maximum of \$75,000 **direct** costs available for each project.

Personnel costs should be no more than 50% of the total direct costs requested.

Salary for the PI should not be included in the pilot study budget, but is expected to be covered by the investigator’s department/college as evidence institutional support.

Travel costs are only allowed for attending COBRE or IDeA meetings.

The following budget categories will not be supported: 1) capital equipment (\$5,000 or greater in cost); 2) patient care costs; 3) third party sub-contracts.

Project Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016.

Project Monitoring

Projects will be monitored informally and reviewed by the COBRE Leadership (Dr. Hauer-Jensen, Dr. Daohong Zhou, and Dr. Marjan Boerma) every six months. Funded investigators will be expected to attend the monthly COBRE Research Conference and present updates on progress at the COBRE External Advisory Committee in February-March.

Formal monitoring will include a progress report detailing the funds expended and the progress toward completion of the specific aims. This progress report following six months of funding serves mainly to allow the COBRE Leadership to provide helpful feedback, and/or offer advice or assistance.

A final report is due within 30 days of the end of the project period.

All publications, including abstracts, resulting from work done with COBRE resources must include acknowledgement to “Center for Studies of Host Response to Cancer Therapy through Center of Biomedical Research Excellence Award P20GM109005”. Moreover, any grant award received directly or indirectly as a result of COBRE support must be reported to Dr. Hauer-Jensen immediately upon receipt.

Application Submission

For questions about the nature or scope of scientific projects, contact:

Martin Hauer-Jensen, MD, PhD, FACS
mhjensen@uams.edu

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Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Hauer-Jensen prior to completing the application to discuss the suitability and feasibility of the proposed work. **Projects must be within the program research focus areas and must have clearly defined deliverables to be competitive.**

Applications should be submitted by the application due date **5:00 PM (Eastern) September 1, 2015** electronically. Electronic submissions are required. PDF format is preferred. Collect all sections of the application into a single PDF file.

Late or incomplete applications or applications not conforming to the page limits will not be reviewed.

Submit an electronic copy of the single file PDF application to:

Martin Hauer-Jensen, MD, PhD, FACS
COBRE Principal Investigator
mhjensen@uams.edu